

West Liberty Classical Academy is a magnet middle school located on the South side of Pittsburgh. Using a team approach, the staff plans interdisciplinary lessons like Classical Studies, African-American history, and Contemporary Crafts. They also created an 8th period every Wednesday so that students could participate in the band and orchestra ensemble, or choose among a journalism program, the science club, the garden club, the hiking club, creative writing lessons, or the drama club. The students also participate in School-to-Work activities in which they visit senior citizen centers, a neighborhood school for handicapped children, several area elementary schools.

Parents are an integral part of the learning experience at West Liberty. A "Computer Night Live" gives parents and students the opportunity to learn to use computers. Parents and children can also work on their math skills during "Family Math Night."

Thanks to the effort of teachers, students, administrator, and parents, West Liberty provides a quality learning experience while living up to its school motto, "Safe and Secure." I commend West Liberty Classical Academy and the Pittsburgh Public School System for their accomplishments.

THE FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1998, legislation to streamline and improve the federal grant process.

I'm sure all of us have heard from state and local governments or non-profit organizations in our districts who have grown frustrated with the federal grant application process. Most recently, I have heard concerns express from around the country about the implementation of the Drug-Free Communities Act, legislation I sponsored that was enacted last year. Anyone who has attempted to apply for a federal grant has grown frustrated by the miles of red tape, regulations and duplicative procedures they encounter. Applying for the grant is just the beginning of the problem—the administrative and reporting requirements attached to certain grants often make potential recipients wonder whether to apply for funding in the first place.

The legislation we have introduced addresses these concerns. It requires relevant Federal agencies, with oversight from OMB, to develop plans within 18 months that do the following: streamline application, administrative, and reporting requirements; develop a uniform application (or set of applications) for related programs; develop and expand the use of electronic applications and reporting via the Internet; demonstrate interagency coordination in simplifying requirements for cross-cutting programs; and set annual goals to further the purposes of the Act.

Agencies would consult with outside parties in the development of the plans. Plans and follow-up annual reports would be submitted to

Congress and the Director of OMB and could be included as part of other management reports required under law.

In addition to overseeing and coordinating agency activities, OMB would be responsible for developing common rules that cut across program and agency lines by creating a release form that allows grant information to be shared by programs. The Act sunsets in five years and the National Academy for Public Administrators (NAPA) would submit an evaluation of the Act's effectiveness just prior to its sunset.

The bill builds on past efforts to improve program performance through the Government Performance Results Act and to reduce federal burdens through the Paperwork Reduction Act and Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. It has been endorsed by state and local organizations such as the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislators, the National Association of Counties, and the National League of Cities. Identical legislation, sponsored by Senators GLENN and THOMPSON, was recently reported out of the Senate Government Affairs Committee.

This is a good government measure that will make it easier to interact with our federal government, and result in cost savings for grant applicants and federal agencies.

I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. HOYER, and the other original cosponsors for joining me in this bipartisan effort and I encourage my colleagues to support the bill.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW JERSEY FIREMEN'S HOME, BOONTON, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the New Jersey Firemen's Home located in Boonton, New Jersey on the occasion of their 100th anniversary. This anniversary marks the culmination of a long, proud history of providing housing for retired, disabled and indigent firefighters of all ages in the State of New Jersey.

The firefighter's home was the vision of Bird Spencer, President of the New Jersey Firemen's Association. A couple of years before the turn of the century, at the nineteenth annual New Jersey State Firemen's Association convention, President Bird Spencer addressed the need of suitable housing for the state's firemen. He promised that he would make an effort to obtain legislation for the purchase and building of such a place.

Early records indicate that on April 2, 1898 the New Jersey Firemen's Home was incorporated by the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly and on June 27, 1898 the Firemen's Home was purchased.

On June 23, 1900, President Bird Spencer's promise was realized as the doors of the New Jersey Firemen's Home were officially opened during a dedication ceremony attended by Governor Voorhees. In September 22, 1900, the first two New Jersey firemen from Paterson, New Jersey entered the home as the first residents.

For over a century the Firemen's Home has offered housing for any paid or volunteer firefighter who has served at least one year on a department, or who was injured while on duty. Since its inception, the New Jersey Firemen's Home has housed approximately 1,775 men. Some have been guests others have been long-time residents. Today the home is operated by a twenty-three member board and the staff is made up of one or two firefighters from each county in the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, throughout its long history, the New Jersey Firemen's Home has provided a place to live for retired and injured firefighters from across the state. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, to please join me in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the New Jersey Firemen's Home.

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centennial Anniversary of the City of Port Arthur, Texas and request that the following Proclamation be made a part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas Arthur E. Stilwell of Rochester, New York founded the City of Port Arthur on the western shoreline of Lake Sabine in 1898, and

Whereas the City of Port Arthur has grown and developed into a major center of petrochemical manufacturing, shipping, and offshore oil exploration, and

Whereas the City of Port Arthur has been home to such industrial giants of the 20th Century such as Texaco, Inc., the Gulf Oil Company, Chevron Companies, Fina Oil and Chemical Corporation, Clark Manufacturing Corporation, Star Enterprise, Huntsman Corporation, Equistar Corporation, and

Whereas the City of Port Arthur has served not only the industrial and consumer needs of the United States and the world, it has also contributed significantly to the defense of the nation in World Wars I and II and other international conflicts by providing men and women as well as ship construction, merchant marine services, and a sea of petroleum products necessary to win those wars, and

Whereas the City of Port Arthur has been home to some of the most colorful people of the 20th Century including former Texas Governor Allan Shivers, Oscar award winner Leach Rhodes, former President of the American Medical Association Daniel "Stormy" Johnson, NFL Coach Jimmy Johnson, rock icon Janis Joplin, abstract expressionist Robert Rauschenberg, motion picture actress from Hollywood's Golden Era Evelyn Keyes, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Lucian Adams, Texas businessman and Presidential appointee Mach Hannah, rhythm and blues great Ivory Joe Hunter, and hundreds more who have contributed not only to life in this community, but persons whose contributions are recognized not only to life in this community, but persons whose contributions are recognized throughout Texas, the nation and around the world.

Now therefore be it resolved that the City of Port Arthur, a progressive community proud of its multi-cultural heritage of 60,000